

EU referendum >> Pages 10&11

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Sameh Naguib >> Pages 14&15

Left in Egypt  
set for new  
challenges

# Socialist Worker

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JOIN JUNIOR DOCTORS' AND  
TEACHERS' FIGHTBACK

# OUR CHANCE TO BEAT DIVIDED TORIES

● Junior doctors ramp up strikes against  
dangerous contracts >> Page 3

● Teachers vote for action >> Pages 4&5

● Europe gamble may put an end to Cameron >> Page 6

## BREADLINE BRITAIN

Bosses plan  
minimum  
wage robbery

by ALISTAIR FARROW

THE TORIES' "living wage", introduced this week, is a con.

It's only £7.20 an hour, applies only to over-25s—and scheming bosses plan to offset a higher hourly rate with cuts elsewhere.

Dave, who works at a B&Q store in Yorkshire, told Socialist Worker, "Managers say the new living wage is too much so they won't be able to pay us our Sunday overtime pay. Now they're saying they can only pay us time-and-a-half for bank holidays rather than double time."

Morrisons announced it will pay more than £7.20 an hour, but also scrap allowances such as time-and-a-half premium for Sunday shifts.

Leila, who works at a Debenhams department store, said,

Pay: bosses want your pennies

"Management are cutting back staff, not filling vacancies and using traineeships where people work for their benefits."

"We've been feeling the effects of cuts to staffing levels in the last couple of months. One person recently was serving five customers at once."

Bosses claim that the £7.20 an hour rate will add £3 billion to annual wage bills. In truth it will be much less—and Osborne handed out £3.3 billion a year to business in his budget tax cuts.

Unions and the Labour Party leaders must fight for what they agree is a real living wage—a minimum of £10 an hour regardless of age.

Names may have been changed in order to protect workers from management bullying



## THE THINGS THEY SAY

### 'Dangerous charmer'

Tory writer Matthew Paris on Tory Boris Johnson

### 'Careless disregard for the truth'

Matthew Paris keeps going with his critique of Boris Johnson

### 'I needed more time to think'

David Cameron explains why he left parliament a day early to go on holiday

### 'I don't think Bruss—England or I don't think that Europe is a safe place'

US presidential candidate Donald Trump confuses Belgium and England

### 'Permanent Tory government'

The future that Labour MP Caroline Flint predicts if her advice to take up immigration as an issue is ignored

### 'Righteous bystander'

Labour MP Stella Creasy gives her analysis of Jeremy Corbyn supporting group Momentum

### 'Just because someone voted Conservative, it doesn't mean they're bad people'

Labour shadow cabinet member Jon Ashworth

### 'And nobody from Liverpool, please'

Casting call for a Morrisons supermarket advert that wanted "proper working-class people, but not at all like the characters on Benefits Street"

# Oil traders feast while food traders hope for famine

STABILITY IS bad for business. Roland Rechtsteiner of consultancy Oliver Wyman said, "The key to trading performance for traders is price volatility."

The price has to go up and down a lot to make speculation work.

So according to the Financial Times newspaper hardworking oil traders "have emerged as big winners from the commodity price crash. They've reported some of their best results on record, as rivals that focus on grains and metal struggle."

Vitol, the world's biggest independent oil trader, and Gunvor, once the biggest shipper of Russian crude, last week both reported after tax profits of more than £700 million.

Last December Trafigura's oil and petroleum division



HARD WORKING oil traders

reported a 50 percent increase in gross earnings in the year to September.

Trafigura also accounts for 40 percent of trade in refined copper, lead and zinc.

But the one time it made world headlines was in 2006 when a ship it owned was responsible for dumping

toxic waste in Cote D'Ivoire.

It then sued people who said it had done so.

Many locals became sick and at least ten people died. Trafigura paid £130 million in compensation.

"The volatility in oil has been a traders' paradise," said the head of one major

grain trader, who declined to be identified for reasons of shyness.

Oil trading executives are looking forward to bumper dividend payments.

But it's not all good news. Specialists in agricultural commodities such as grains and cotton have been reporting sharp drops in profits.

Gonzalo Ramírez Martíarena is the boss of Louis Dreyfus Company, one of the world's biggest agricultural traders.

He said its results may not rebound fast from a 67 percent fall in net income for 2015.

He has been left hoping for crop failure.

He said, "We will still see abundant supplies if you don't lose one or two crops in the world, volatility will be low."

## It is grim in Osborne's north

GEORGE Osborne's Northern Powerhouse is fiction.

The chancellor's seam scheme to revive the North's economy has seen just £402 million of new money committed.

But since the Tories came in, £3.9 billion has been cut from northern councils. Despite numerous speeches and press releases, the Treasury has only pumped cash into two schemes—both road upgrades.

One is the A556 Knutsford to Bowdon—which runs through Osborne's constituency of Tatton.



## ALL RISE

# £3,000

The average gain someone who pays capital gains tax will make from Osborne's latest tax cut

# 0.3%

The percentage of the population that the change affects

## The billionaire with no bank account

WAIFIC SAID is a billionaire philanthropist, arms dealer and Tory backer. But Barclays bank has told him that it no longer wants him as a client.

The bank has given the same ultimatum to his charity, the Said Foundation, which finances the Said Business School at Oxford University.

Said helped to smooth the way for Britain's biggest export deal, the £43 billion sale of fighter jets to Saudi Arabia in the 1980s. The deal was facilitated with billions of pounds of corrupt payments.

An inquiry into the affair by the Serious

Fraud Office was halted after Tony Blair intervened in 2004.

The Said Foundation counts among its trustees Sir Michael Peat, former private secretary to the Prince of Wales. Lord Powell of Bayswater, former foreign affairs adviser to Margaret Thatcher is one too. Another trustee is Jonathan Aitken, the former cabinet minister jailed in 1999 for perjury.

There is of course no suggestion of wrongdoing. His family members are big Tory donors.



Billionaire Wafic Said

## £100,000 spent on bedroom tax cases

GOVERNMENT ministers have spent more than £100,000 on trying to overturn a court ruling that the bedroom tax should not apply to a domestic violence victim and carers for a disabled teenager.

Iain Duncan Smith had blown more than £50,000 of taxpayers' cash on lawyers to fight a Court of Appeal ruling.

New figures show the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has spent a further £52,000 on its Supreme Court battle.

One of the families involved

in the legal action, the Rutherford family, are constituents of Duncan Smith's replacement Stephen Crabb.

The Court of Appeal ruled last month on two cases. Paul and Sue Rutherford need an extra room for carers looking after disabled grandson Warren.

The other is a domestic violence victim who has a police-built panic room. The court found they should not be subject to the bedroom tax.



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LAST WEEKEND saw the annual posh festival that is the Oxford Cambridge Boat Race.

The BBC commentators seemed keen to describe the Oxford reserve boat rather than use its name. It's named Isis—after the river rather than the terrorist group.

In 2014 Oxford University head of sport responded to name change suggestions. He said, "To change the name would be to pander up to it and would give the extremists more publicity than they are worth."

On Saturday Isis won.

# Junior doctors escalate action over new contract

by TOMÁŠ TENGELY-EVANS

**JUNIOR DOCTORS** across England were set to begin a 48-hour strike on Wednesday of next week.

Their British Medical Association (BMA) has escalated its programme of industrial action against Tory health secretary Jeremy Hunt's imposition of a dangerous new contract.

Junior doctors will hold two ten-hour "full walkouts" on 26 and 27 April, instead of a 48-hour walkout with emergency cover.

Yannis Gourtsoyannis sits on the BMA's junior doctors' committee. He told Socialist Worker, "We are in an unprecedented situation, but this move shows the resolve of our members in fighting the imposition."

There is a thirst for a united fight against the Tories.

Yannis presented a letter, signed by 2,000 junior doctors, to the NUT teachers' union to show solidarity with teachers' battle against forced academies.

Delegates at a fringe meeting chanted, "Doctors and teachers, unite and strike!"

NUT conference overwhelmingly backed balloting for strikes against the impact of forced academies and funding cuts (see pages 4&5).

If junior doctors are still in dispute after the NUT ballot, the two groups should strike together.

## Privatisation

Yannis said, "There are parallels with the academisation of schools and what's been happening with privatisation in the NHS."

Every trade unionist must build solidarity ahead of next week's walkout and organise delegations to visit picket lines to show their support.

During the last walkout around 1,500 junior doctors and their supporters marched into the City of



**JUNIOR DOCTORS** and supporters protesting in London during a strike on 10 March (above). Strikers have won backing from other trade unionists and students (left)

PICTURES: GUY SMALLMAN AND ALAN KENNY

## Marxism 2016 Ideas to change the world

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## Join the demo on 16 April

THOUSANDS OF people will march through central London on 16 April on a demonstration called by the People's Assembly Against Austerity.

The national protest is a march for health, homes, jobs and education.

Coaches are booked to come from at least 24 towns and cities across Britain.

The march comes as the Tories are divided and there is growing anger at austerity and racism.

The junior doctors' strikes against unfair contracts have inspired

many to fight back.

Tens of thousands of people marched in support of refugees and against Islamophobia at the Stand up to Racism demonstrations earlier this month. Many thousands also protested in London against the Housing Bill.

And the hundreds of thousands of people who voted for Jeremy Corbyn have not gone away.

The protest will be an opportunity to unite those struggles—and build a bigger movement to take out the Tories.

**Nick Clark**  
[thepeoplesassembly.org.uk](http://thepeoplesassembly.org.uk)



## IN BRIEF

### Pensions shift means pay cuts

FIVE MILLION public sector workers and 1.5 million in the private sector face a cut in their take-home pay from next week.

Chancellor George Osborne has altered the way national insurance contributions are calculated due to a new state pension system. Someone on £25,000 a year could lose £7 a week.

### Camden council attacks tenants

CAMDEN COUNCIL is forcing 30,000 people on its council housing waiting list to reapply under new criteria.

Applicants will have to prove residency in the north London borough for five of the last seven years.

Communal rooms will also be counted as bedrooms.

Some 23,000 people will be kicked off the waiting list.

### Library jobs cut by one quarter

ALMOST 8,000 library jobs in Britain, one quarter of the total, have gone in the past six years.

More than 340 libraries have been closed due to cuts.

A further 111 closures were expected this year, according to a BBC investigation.

### Dangerous new fire call centre

WORKERS AT a new fire and rescue call centre set to open in Edinburgh on Wednesday have warned of a "critical" and dangerous situation.

Whistle-blowers say they are under-trained and understaffed.

## IN THIS WEEK

# 1990

### Prisoners riot at Strangeways jail

HUNDREDS OF prisoners rose up and took over Strangeways prison in Manchester on 1 April 1990.

Prisoners unlocked cells and took up positions on the roof. It was the biggest uprising in British penal history.

# Teachers prepare for battle as Tories face deep crisis

by SADIE ROBINSON in Brighton

## TEACHERS HAVE declared war on Tory education secretary Nicky Morgan.

The minister wants to trash state education by forcing every school in England to become a privately-run academy and imposing huge funding cuts across the sector. At the NUT union's conference in Brighton last weekend teachers voted overwhelmingly for strikes to stop the plan.

The first walkout is planned for the summer term with further walkouts in the autumn.

Alex Kenny from the executive said the ballot would begin "within five weeks of this conference".

He told Socialist Worker, "Every teacher in every school needs to understand the threat this poses.

"Whether you work in an academy or a state-run school, it affects us all. We need to move quickly."

Alex spelled out what this means in schools. "Activists should break down schools in their areas into clusters," he said.

"We need ballot committees to make sure all members are contacted and get to meetings to discuss building the ballot."

## Emergency

Deputy general secretary Kevin Courtney discussed the ballot and action at a sixth form college fringe meeting. He said, "It won't just be one day. We will be specifying more days of action."

The first walkout is expected to take place in the first week of July.

Many teachers are already organising. NUT activists in Islington, north London, have called an emergency mobilising meeting across the borough this week.

Jan Nielsen, a teacher in south London, said, "Some teachers from my school are visiting a junior doctors' picket line on Wednesday. After that we will discuss how to build our ballot."



Tory minister Nicky Morgan

## BACK STORY

### The Tories want to force all schools to become academies by 2022

- Academies are schools that are state funded—but run by private businesses
- Academies can employ unqualified teachers on lower pay
- They have more "flexibility" on setting pay and conditions—and on selecting pupils
- Converting schools to academies will mean councils have less say in how they are run

DELEGATES AT the NUT union conference call for an end to Sats tests

PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

## Vote for ballot against cuts and academies could lead to strikes

TEACHERS VOTED for a ballot for strikes against the impact of forced academies and funding cuts. Delegates agreed that they threaten "jobs, pay, and non-pay terms".

On top of the forced academisation, the Tories also want to scrap parent governors and get rid of qualified teacher status in schools.

Delegates passed a motion denouncing the plan as ultimately aimed at "privatisation".

It instructed the union's executive to approach other unions to "seek agreement on a common plan for a ballot for discontinuous strike and non-strike action".

It also instructed the executive to present a timetable "to begin with a one-day strike before the end of summer term".

An amendment passed stressed that the NUT should "enact this timetable and action with any union willing to join us in the summer term, but otherwise to enact it ourselves—



PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

and then seek to coordinate further strikes in the autumn term."

Delegates from across the country told Socialist Worker they are furious at the forced academies threat—and willing to fight. Jenny, who teaches in the north west of England, said the plan is "Crap with a capital C". Katy works in an academy in Devon. "I recently had to buy

my own felt tips—yet they've got new TVs in the school," she said. "I don't know who my governors are anymore. It's much more cloak and dagger with academies."

Helena from Leicestershire said the Tory plan would mean "disaster".

"I definitely support strikes," she added. "All my friends are going down with stress. I had a breakdown."

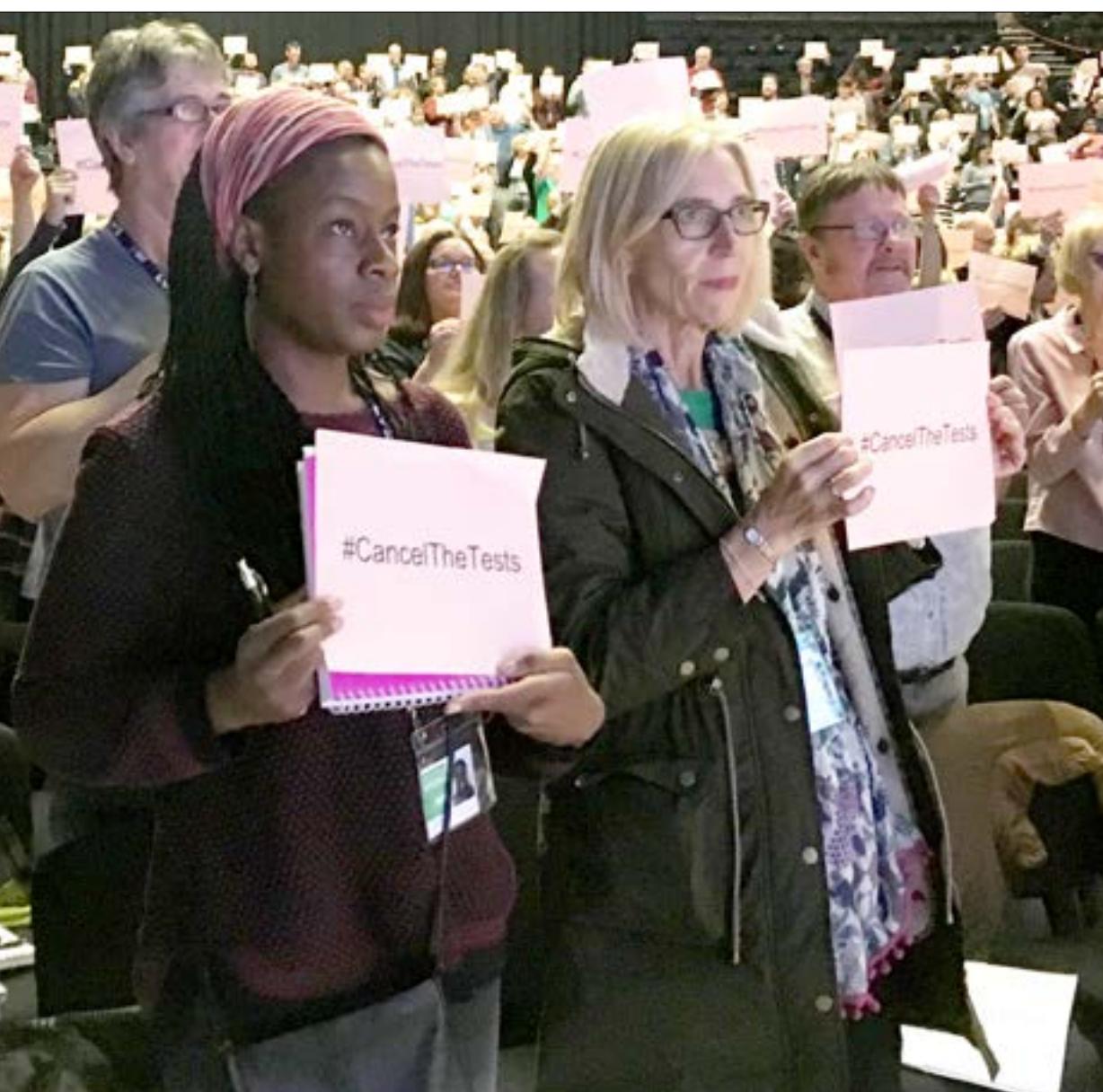
"But the Tories have made a big mistake because now everybody's talking about it."

Dave from Luton also stressed the potential to build a broad campaign to win. "It is possible to stop this," he said.

"In Luton we had Lib Dem and Labour councillors come out and support our protest over forced academies last week."

"Tory councillors have come out against it. There is a lot of political momentum."

For more reports from the NUT conference go to [socialistworker.co.uk](http://socialistworker.co.uk). Teachers protest against academy plans [bit.ly/IRJNSRm](http://bit.ly/IRJNSRm)



## 'Withdraw Prevent strategy', delegates tell government

A MOTION calling on the government to "withdraw the Prevent strategy" was unanimously passed by NUT members.

Prevent targets Muslims as potential terrorists and instructs teachers and others to report evidence of "radicalisation" and "extremism".

Children as young as four have been referred under the strategy.

Alex Kenny from the executive said, "The NUT believes 100 percent that teachers have a duty to keep children safe." He said Prevent makes that harder as it makes open discussion in schools "more difficult".

Paul McGarr from east London said Prevent means that "some students don't dare express an opinion."

Lisa Tunnell from Chesterfield said students and teachers were "afraid to express opinions for fear of being reported to police". She said the government is promoting

It noted lawyer David Anderson



PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

"Islamophobia". Gary Kaye from North Yorkshire said training on Prevent "often involves lazy stereotypes".

He added that there is a "lack of transparency over what happens with names and information once they are logged".

The motion instructed the executive to encourage members to "take collective steps to challenge and improve policies and reporting/curriculum practices" relating to Prevent.

Delegates unanimously backed an amendment condemning the idea that schools could be penalised if staff or students wear the veil.

Zamar Khan from Wakefield said the union must "protect our female membership and students from the veiled agenda of this government".

QC's conclusion that Prevent risked "alienating" people. An amendment called on the government to urgently conduct an independent review of Prevent.

Delegates

unanimously backed an amendment condemning the idea that schools could be penalised if staff or students wear the veil.

An amendment called on the government to call on head teachers and schools not to participate in baseline tests for four year olds.

The amendment said the union should actively explore "consideration of a ballot for boycott" of baseline and primary tests "at the most appropriate time".

themselves sick to avoid school.

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The amendment said the union should actively explore "consideration of a ballot for boycott" of baseline and primary tests "at the most appropriate time".

for children and push up teachers' workload.

Amanda Martin from the executive said tests had led to some children self-harming or making

sinister move for the Mail. The "facts" about the EgyptAir plane hijacking on Tuesday also changed hour after hour.

At the same time as being outraged at terrorist acts, the media barons are quick to whip up more hatred against Muslims.

Unsurprisingly they were not quick to retract any of the allegations they had thrown at Cheffou after he was released.

The claim on the Sun newspaper's front page last year—"1 in 5 Brits Muslims' sympathy for jihadis"—was used by every racist to justify their hatred of Muslims.

Based on a survey the Sun paid for, it came out just after the Paris attacks.

But the damage was already done.

Bosses use their control of the media to sow division among working class people.

They want to mislead us into believing that austerity is necessary and that we must accept cuts.

Yet there are no such sacrifices for them.

So the next time the press tells you that striking junior doctors are "using patients as cannon fodder" or attacks "lefty teaching unions"—don't believe the lies.

## ISRAEL IS A TERROR STATE

**S**HOCKING VIDEO footage showing an Israeli soldier execute Abed al-Fattah al-Sharif as he lay wounded in the middle of a road went viral last week.

The video shows a number of Israeli soldiers and settlers standing around Abed before one shoots him in the head.

The footage is difficult to watch. But what makes it so disturbing is how commonplace such killings are.

Abed was shot in Hebron, where thousands of Israeli soldiers protect a few hundred settlers.

have been killed by Israelis since October last year.

Israeli prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu defended the Israeli military after the killing, calling any criticism "outrageous and unacceptable".

But the hundreds killed by Israel are people who have lived their whole lives under a brutal occupation.

That Israel's rulers are so worried by BDS is an encouragement to everyone who supports the Palestinians. It's one of the best reasons to get involved in the campaign.

But Israel's crimes are causing widespread revulsion, as shown by the growth of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement.

President Reuven Rivlin even spoke at Israel's first ever anti-BDS conference in Israel on Monday.

That Israel's rulers are so worried by BDS is an encouragement to everyone who supports the Palestinians. It's one of the best reasons to get involved in the campaign.

## STAND UP TO RACISM EVENTS

● Trade Unionists for Calais conference  
24 April, central London

● Refugees Welcome Here—Racism out of the Referendum rally  
25 May, central London

● Convoy to Calais with the People's Assembly and trade unions  
11 June



standuptoracism.org.uk

## ANALYSIS

ALEX CALLINICOS

## Cameron's gamble on Europe may not work

MY PREDICTION at the start of the year that “divisions among the Tories will become high profile” in 2016 has been amply confirmed.

The intensity of the hatreds unleashed by Iain Duncan Smith’s clash with David Cameron should remind us that this was the latest episode in a war that has been going on for more than 25 years.

It started in Margaret Thatcher’s last years as Tory prime minister. On 30 October 1990 she came to the House of Commons to denounce the plans agreed at a summit in Rome for greater European integration.

What Alan Watkins in his history of her downfall calls “Mrs Thatcher’s fatal outburst”—“No. No. No.”—provoked Sir Geoffrey Howe to resign from the government. He denounced her leadership in a devastating speech. Within little more than a week her premiership was over.

Of course, much more was involved than what would soon become the European Union. The failure of Tory economic policy had nearly torn the government apart in 1989. And the introduction of the poll tax provoked a huge popular rebellion that left Thatcher very badly damaged.

Nevertheless the downfall of the Tories’ great heroine thanks to “Europe” is deeply etched in their collective memory. They will have been reminded of it when Tory ex-chancellor Kenneth Clarke appeared on the Today programme last week to defend George Osborne. The pro-European Clarke helped to force Thatcher’s final resignation.

Thatcher’s successor, John Major, struggled ineffectually with the party’s divisions over Europe. These were exacerbated first by the pound being forced out of the Exchange Rate Mechanism of the European Monetary System and then by a prolonged parliamentary struggle over ratifying the Maastricht Treaty, which set up the euro.

### Hapless

Duncan Smith made his name as a backbench opponent of Maastricht. After the Tories’ divisions swept them from office in 1997, he was one of a hapless succession of loyally Thatcherite party leaders who strenuously denounced the EU but were massacred at the polls.

Duncan Smith was so bad that the Tories got rid of him before he had a chance to lead them into a general election.

Cameron tried to change the subject. “Compassionate conservatism” meant copying Tony Blair’s media-savvy combination of neoliberalism and “enlightened” policies. The 2008 financial crash gave him an opening that he successfully exploited to try and force through a more radical version of Thatcherism than she had ever dared.

But the issue of Europe wouldn’t go away—partly because of the eurozone crisis and its consequences, partly because the Thatcherite wing of the Tory party wouldn’t let it.

Only a minority of Tory MPs voted for Cameron in the 2005 leadership election. So he has had to throw the party right a series of Eurosceptic bones.

The referendum is the latest of these. The Tory writer Andrew Gimson calls it “a brilliant expedient”, arguing that Cameron “has taken the wind out of Ukip’s sails, and called his own Eurosceptics’ bluff, by giving them the very thing they are demanding”.

Only it doesn’t really look that brilliant. First, referendums are hard to predict—as the vote on Scottish independence shows. Cameron complacently saw this as a dry-run for a referendum rejecting Brexit, only to nearly lose it.

Secondly, the Tories were united against Scottish independence but they are divided over the EU. The dynamic of this long campaign is polarising the two sides, and embittering intra-party relations. Let’s note that, despite Jeremy Corbyn’s fairly inept parliamentary interventions last week, his strategy of leaving the Tories to fight out the Brexit debate and thereby weaken themselves is working.

Thirdly, other issues are bleeding into the referendum. Duncan Smith’s denunciation of the disability cuts did this brilliantly. Osborne has been forced to abandon further reductions in welfare spending, leaving a huge hole in his budget plans.

The rest of the austerity programme rolls on, but suddenly the government looks vulnerable. Cameron and Osborne haven’t reached their poll tax moment yet, but Thatcher’s fall no longer seems like ancient history.



AFGHAN REFUGEES joined the protest in Athens last Saturday against the European Union’s deal with Turkey

## The EU’s border clampdown sparks resistance in Greece

by ALISTAIR FARROW

### REFUGEES, volunteers and anti-racists are resisting a clampdown in Greece

Under a new deal between the European Union (EU) and Turkey, refugees who arrived in Greece after 20 March are to be detained in camps or deported.

Greek prime minister Alexis Tsipras hailed it as a victory. He said, “We have put into action what we have been trying to achieve for the last three months.”

A government bill is to be rushed through parliament to facilitate the deal.

Petros Constantinou from the Keerfa anti-fascist group told Socialist Worker, “The new bill will mean that the government will be able to carry out mass deportations.”

Activists are organising a protest for Wednesday of next week outside the parliament.

On the island of Lesvos police have been violently clearing out refugees.

### Prison

The official Moria camp has been turned into a prison and hundreds of refugees are inside. NGO Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has pulled out of the camp in protest.

Marie Elisabeth Ingres, MSF head of mission in Greece, said, “We made the extremely difficult decision to end our activities in Moria

because continuing to work inside would make us complicit in a system we consider to be both unfair and inhumane.”

Greek authorities are trying to clear refugees from the camp at Idomeni on the Macedonian border and send them to permanent camps.

Going to the new camps will mean passage to Europe will become impossible and many are refusing to go.

Volunteer-run solidarity camps face daily raids.

Teacher Sofia Georgocosta, an activist in Lesvos, told



Syriza leader Alexis Tsipras

Socialist Worker, “The police go in all the time, even to the parts where the women get changed.”

“All the time they are pushing, saying you have to leave, you have to leave. They are forcing people onto boats to mainland Greece.”

More than 5,000 refugees are now stuck at the port of Piraeus near Athens with nowhere to go after being transported there from Athens.

### Border

But there is resistance. Hundreds of refugees demonstrated in Idomeni last Saturday, demanding the border be opened.

Refugees from the port of Kavala joined anti-fascists from Keerfa in Thessalonika at a 700-strong counter-protest against 150 members of ‘Sacred Band’, a coalition of fascists and Islamophobes.

On Lesvos, in the port of Mytilini, around 40 Pakistani refugees were taken away by police in handcuffs on Saturday.

Keerfa protested alongside volunteers under the slogan “We don’t want Lesvos to become the Guantanamo of Europe.”

This followed a protest at Moria called by activists who run the solidarity camps.

Refugees inside the camp joined in chants of “Freedom!” and held up signs saying “Open the border”.

## Abandoned by Syriza

ORDINARY people in Greece have shown immense solidarity, organising collections and opening up their homes to refugees.

Syriza prime minister Alexis Tsipras called for the people of Lesvos to get the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts.

But the Syriza government and the European Union (EU) are imposing austerity on them and clamping down on refugees at the same time.

When the Troika forced austerity on Greece, Tsipras said his hands

were tied and that the position Greece found itself in was unfortunate but inevitable.

Now, the Syriza government has shown it is ready to abandon refugees to defend its place at the EU top table.

Public sector unions across Greece are set to strike against the government’s pension cuts on Thursday of next week.

The Keerfa group is calling on all the unions of Lesvos, particularly the dockers and shipping workers, to strike with them.



# Crackdown behind the Nazi demo in Brussels

The bombings in Belgium were horrific but repression helped the far right, writes Tomáš Tengely-Evans

**FASCISTS ATTACKED** a crowd in Brussels that gathered last Sunday to remember those killed in the bombings in the Belgian capital.

The fascists from the “Casuals against Terrorism” group made Nazi “Sieg Heil” salutes and confronted Muslim women in a crowd near the stock exchange.

Silent vigils have been held there every day since the killings.

Belgium’s right wing prime minister Charles Michel said, “It is highly inappropriate that protesters have disrupted the peaceful reflection at the stock exchange.”

But the Nazis’ attacks have been fuelled by the Belgian state, which is cracking down on Muslims and dissent.

## Laxity

Following the Paris attacks last November Michel singled out the working class Muslim district of Molenbeek, which right wingers have now labelled “Europe’s jihadist capital”.

He said, “We’ve tried prevention—now we’ll have to get repressive. It’s been a form of laxity and now we’re paying the price.”

The day before the Nazi attack, the government cancelled a “March against fear” unity demonstration called by the Labour-type Socialist Party—because of a “lack of police resources”.

It was different with the Nazis. The police knew they were coming on Sunday, met them at the station and went with them to the stock exchange.

Meanwhile, at least 70 people were killed and 300 injured in a suicide bombing carried out by the Jamaat-ul-Ahrar group in Lahore in Pakistan last Sunday.

The group said it was targeting Pakistani Christians during Easter.

Jamaat-ul-Ahrar split from the Pakistani Taliban group in September 2014 and said it supported Isis. This was partly out of opposition to the Taliban’s “peace talks” with the Pakistani government.

## BACK STORY

**Two horrific bombings have underlined how war and repression do not stop terror**

- Three bombs were detonated in Brussels at an airport and rail station on Tuesday of last week
- They killed 35 people, including three attackers, and injured hundreds more
- The sectarian group Isis claimed responsibility
- A bombing on Sunday near a children’s playground in Lahore, Pakistan, killed 70 people

It rejoined the Pakistani Taliban last March.

At times the Pakistani state has been willing to negotiate—as have elements of the Taliban’s leadership.

But Pakistan has been pursuing a brutal ground war in the North Waziristan region since 2014, supported by US drone strikes.

There have been over 370 US drone attacks there during the presidency of Barack Obama, killing up to 1,000 civilians.

The neighbouring Punjab region has seen a string of attacks, Lahore being just the latest.

## Military

This latest bombing will be exploited by the state.

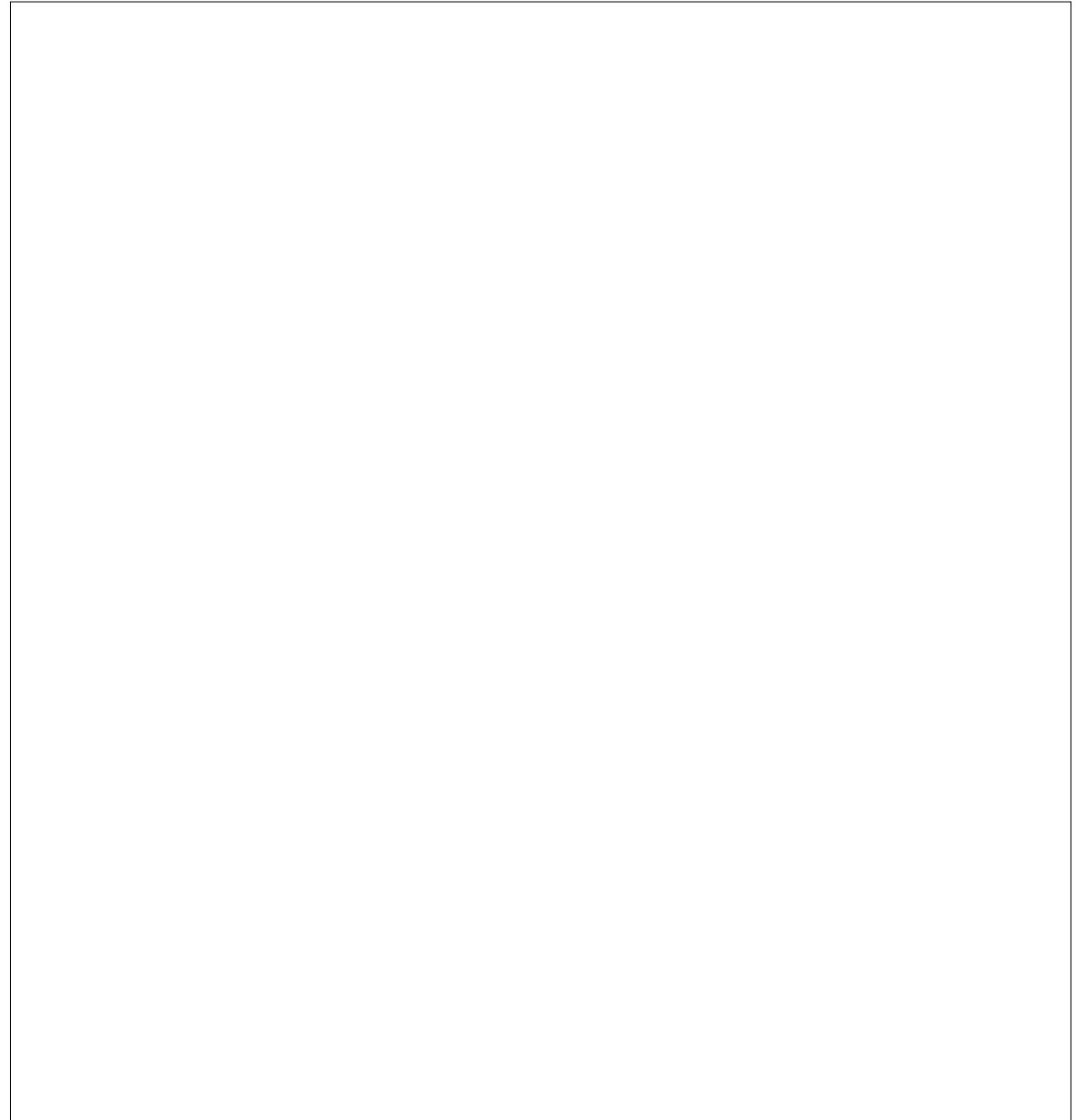
The Taliban’s attack on a school in 2014 killed 133 children and was immediately used by the current government to unveil new repressive measures.

A new military court system allowed the trial of civilians in secret sessions.

The government also ended a moratorium on executions.

Over 350 people were put to death. Only one in ten were said to be “linked to a known militant group”.

US imperialism and its local supporters are fuelling more sectarianism and bombings in the region.



NAZIS (LEFT) gathered in the Place de la Bourse in Brussels on Sunday, confronting a peace vigil

## Tony Blair paves way for those who want to increase hatred of Muslims

NEW LABOUR war criminal Tony Blair responded to the Brussels attacks by saying that “many millions” of Muslims hold a viewpoint that is “fundamentally incompatible with the modern world”.

He called for Isis to be “defeated” by more military action. Yet in October 2015, when he was asked whether the invasion of Iraq was a “principle cause” of the rise of Isis, he said, “I think there are elements of truth in that.”

## Official

The US government will increase troop deployments to Iraq after the bombing.

Defence secretary Ashton Carter said the US will take “important steps” to prepare for “crucial battles to come”.

General Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said, “Carter and I both believe that there will be an increase in US forces in Iraq in coming weeks.”



Time to unite against Islamophobia

Racist rhetoric from the top is fuelling Islamophobia. Muslims told Socialist Worker how this was making them feel more “alienated” and “marginalised”.

Naima, a student living in south London, told Socialist Worker, “I haven’t been a victim myself, but I still feel unsafe.

“When I’m on the Tube I never stand near the edge of the platform—I’m fearful that someone might push me.”

After the Paris and Brussels attacks the pressure is for Muslims to “condemn” and “apologise” for the actions of Isis.

Tayyabah from Waltham Forest in east London told Socialist Worker, “I get ridiculous questions.

After the Paris killings I was asked, ‘What do you think about it?’

“Why would I think anything

different to everyone else?”

Naima said, “There are double standards based on beliefs and nationality.

“There have just been terrible attacks in Brussels, but Muslims die regularly because of the so-called ‘Islamic State’ and no one recognises that.”

Tory and right wing media propaganda has given confidence to racists.

If Muslims stand up against the Tories or question Britain’s imperialist wars, they are labelled as extremist.

## Questioned

A teacher in Leeds told Socialist Worker, “I’m being marginalised and put in a box. If I go on a demonstration to support the junior doctors or against academies, I’ll be questioned more than a white colleague.”

But it is possible to push back the rising tide of Islamophobia. The teacher said, “Ask what they are trying to distract us from.

“We’ve got to use our collective voice against the negative racist agenda, such as around refugees.”

# Joint action on the cards at Glasgow City Council

Members of three unions could strike as Labour and the SNP force through cuts, reports **Raymie Kiernan**

OVER 6,000 trade union members working for Glasgow City Council are balloting for strikes against the latest cuts driven through by the Labour-run administration.

Council bosses want to drive down conditions for every worker. They plan to slash £130 million and 1,500 posts in the next two years.

The council wants reduced public holidays, new restrictions on flexi-leave and cuts to annual leave for new starters.

Workers in the Unison, GMB and Unite unions could all take coordinated industrial action if ballots over the next month return votes for strikes. This is very likely.

A consultative ballot of 1,000 GMB members, including refuse and parks staff, saw a 95 percent vote for strikes.

Unison is balloting 1,200 residential care staff for strikes over the next month, and is to consult another 4,000 members across the council over walkouts.

Two live disputes by CCTV workers and school janitors are growing in strength. Both are employed by council-owned firms and are fighting for the same conditions as directly employed council staff.

## Strike

CCTV workers were set to strike again from 7am on Friday until 7pm on Monday. This is to be followed by similar 84-hour strikes every weekend until 2 May. Janitors were expected to call more action soon.

Workers at the council have previously shown that strikes can win real gains and defend services facing cuts.

Resistance from the unions has caused divisions among Labour councillors in Glasgow.

They face the prospect of losing control of the council for the first time in decades at local authority elections in May 2017.

Now some in Labour are turning their minds to survival.

At last month's budget-setting meeting all the parties proposed

## FIGURE IT OUT

**£130 million**

Amount that Labour councillors in Glasgow want to slash out of the budget

**1,500**

Council jobs could be lost

**6,000**

Trade union members balloting for strikes against the cuts

variations on each other's cuts.

But some within the Labour group were arguing for a no-cuts budget which unions have campaigned for.

However, in the end Labour councillors backed the cuts package.

Councils across Scotland are wielding the axe after the "anti-austerity" Scottish National Party (SNP) government slashed £500 million from Scottish council budgets this year.

SNP finance minister John Swinney claimed his funding cut will have a "minimal impact on jobs or services". His claim echoed the Westminster Tories he blames for his party's austerity policies.

Some 15,000 local government jobs are under threat. And 40,000 have already gone under the SNP.

New figures last week showed that public sector pay during the last Scottish parliament had plummeted 10 percent in real terms.

It is increasingly clear that neither Labour nor the SNP offers a real alternative to austerity, with the Holyrood elections debate dominated by tax. Collective resistance from workers and those who use services is the real hope.



On other pages...

West Dunbartonshire teachers plan to strike>>Page 19



UNION REP Tim O'Dell protests with strikers outside councillors' offices last week

PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

## South London libraries fight gathers support from other council workers

THE FIGHT to save Lambeth libraries from south London Labour council's cuts stepped up a notch last week.

Workers at the ten libraries struck for 48 hours against two library closures and cuts to the service. They were boosted by news that their council colleagues in the Unison union are prepared to back them up.

Over 85 percent voted for a council-wide strike in defence of libraries and against budget cuts in a consultative ballot. Activists now want a formal strike ballot as soon as possible.

## Lashing

Labour councillors are lashing out under pressure from widespread local resistance.

Jane Edbrooke, cabinet member for neighbourhoods, criticised the union for engaging in a "political campaign alongside libraries groups rather than simply an industrial dispute".

Brixton Library union rep Tim O'Dell responded, "If defending libraries is political, then yes we are political."

"The council's decision to close libraries is political with Labour

trying to force through austerity."

At the Carnegie Library picket line local resident Wimsome Martin said the cuts were "appalling".

She said, "We don't see Labour standing up for us so why are we voting for them?"

Local parent Nicky said her six year old child burst into tears when she broke the news to him about Carnegie's closure, due this week. "The library is a really important place to us," Nicky said.

At a campaign meeting last Thursday night one resident, who described himself as normally "a moderate man", argued that the library campaigners were not alone in resisting austerity.

Pointing to the junior doctors and teachers he said, "Now is not a time for moderation."

Libraries are about much more than the books in them.

One Carnegie Library worker said, "We see elderly people spend the day here to keep warm because they can't afford to heat their homes."

"But it can sometimes just be to meet with people. Libraries can break social isolation."

Unison rep Caroline Mackie

told Socialist Worker, "Every day people are in the library looking for help with accessing all kinds of public services."

The Labour council has pressed ahead with its plan despite the opposition.

Lambeth resident Joe fears that there is a "bigger plan for more privatisation".

## Fears

Joe joined the Labour Party on 13 September last year, the day after Jeremy Corbyn was elected leader.

For him, Corbyn's campaign was like a "light shining through the clouds".

He said, "Lambeth Labour clearly are not going to take a stand against central government.

"But I think they need to take them on and not just manage the cuts. We need councils across the country to fight—and it needs to be a coordinated effort."

"If we don't there will be nothing left by 2020."

Solidarity messages to jrogers@lambeth.gov.uk. Donations payable to Lambeth Unison c/o Unison, International House, Canterbury Cres, London, SW9 7QE. More, including video, at <http://bit.ly/1RFGO21>

## Residents bulldozed

LAMBETH COUNCIL, a Labour council, last week met and reaffirmed its decision to demolish rather than repair Cressingham Gardens estate.

A private company will take it over.

Despite multiple requests for a full inquiry into the financial facts, the council refused.

The council's financial model assumes that the planned buildings will need no maintenance for 60 years. Residents along with experts put together an alternative People's Plan which is completely



A housing protest in London

financially viable. The council dismissed it.

We've begun to question their motivations.

They've now appointed Savills estate agents to manage the redevelopment project. This appears to be the result of a secret tender process.

They said they did not inform or consult residents about the process because it was "too technical".

This is a council that can't even produce a 60-year financial report with maintenance costs included in it.

The project manager for Savills has been working on behalf of the leaseholders.

This is not a Labour Party in charge here.

**Gerlinde Gniewocz**  
South London

## Academies plan is bad for your diet and health

THERE DIDN'T seem to be much opposition in parliament to the chancellor's plan for a sugar tax on soft drinks.

However, there is opposition to the call for all schools to be made into academies.

Some academies are exempt from signing up to school food standards which ensures children are eating healthy dinners.

Around a million youngsters attending



## Just a thought... Corbyn needs our support

**SOCIALIST Workers**  
Party members should ask themselves, how exactly will you help Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn become prime minister?

Will you campaign on the doorstep? Will you vote for a left slate on the Labour Party NEC or... fart about selling papers?

**Chris McKenzie**  
on Facebook

## Etonian toffs keep stealing

**ETONIAN economics:**  
"Keep with one hand while taking with the other".

**John Smith**  
on Facebook

## Sanders victim of BBC bias

**BERNIE Sanders** won two out of three states last week (see Socialist Worker online report at [bit.ly/1S94Z9](http://bit.ly/1S94Z9)).

But the BBC Breakfast News only reported on the one he lost. Biased against Sanders, biased against Corbyn.

**John Dow**  
on Facebook

## Far right gains in Germany

**YOUR** article about the German regional elections (Socialist Worker, 16 March) contained an error.

In Baden-Wurttemberg it wasn't the Green Party that did surprisingly well, but its leader.

This was on the basis of support for Merkel's critic, the racist Horst Seehofer of the Bavarian Social Christians.

There is a Stand Up to Racism conference in Germany on 23 and 24 April. Over 13,000 individuals and organisations have so far signed up to the platform.

**David Paenson**  
Frankfurt, Germany

## Ukip hypocrite warmongers

**NIGEL Farage** has claimed that the "free movement of people has led to the free movement of Kalashnikovs".

It's the free market in weapons that has led "to the free movement of Kalashnikovs".

**Sasha Simic**  
east London

## We had to fight IDS and we'll have to fight his replacement

**DISABLED PEOPLE** Against the Cuts (Dpac) protested in the central lobby of parliament during Prime Ministers Questions last week. We say the government's U-turn over Personal Independence Payments does not go far enough.

Research shows that disabled people are hit nine times harder than other people by cuts, and people with high support needs 19 times harder.

Tory MPs voted to cut the Employment and Support Allowance at the beginning of the month despite two rebellions in the House of Lords.

The measure will reduce the incomes of people found not fit for work by a third.

The cut will affect people with

conditions such as cancer, Parkinson's and MS. The justification that cutting benefits will "incentivise" people flies in the face of all available evidence.

Members of Dpac and allied campaigns had to wait in the cold for an hour and a half before being allowed to enter parliament.

Once the protest started the live BBC broadcast was stopped on air by parliamentary staff.

The footage showing the intervention has the Twitter tagline "this is what democracy looks like".

**Ellen Paige**  
South London

**NEWS OF** Iain Duncan Smith's (IDS) resignation was met with celebration by disability activists

across Britain. IDS' claim that he resigned in protest at the attack on disabled people in Osborne's budget is laughable.

IDS has presided over the biggest attack on disabled people that disabled people have ever experienced.

The loss of benefits under IDS is linked to the deaths of thousands of disabled people over the past six years.

Smith resigned for his own opportunistic reasons but every disabled person in Britain is glad to see the back of him.

Let's hope that George Osborne and the rest of this government of the rich will join him soon.

**Rob Murthwaite**  
North London

## Who goes to The Hague?

NO SOCIALIST should shed a tear for Bosnian-Serbian leader Radovan Karadzic following his sentencing to 40 years imprisonment at the International Criminal Court in The Hague. Nevertheless, Karadzic's trial highlights the illegitimacy of the court.

The major powers, particularly the US and its allies, decide who will and who will not be brought to trial at The Hague.

This is ironic as the US,

like its ally Israel, is not a participant in the court. It withdrew from it in 2002.

If the court was to have any legitimacy it would charge George W Bush and Tony Blair with war crimes

in Iraq.

The same goes for Binyamin Netanyahu for war crimes in the occupied territories of Palestine.

**Mark Brown**  
Glasgow

**Why aren't these murderers in jail for 40 years?**



## WHAT WE STAND FOR

**These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.**

## INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

## REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

## THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

## INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

## THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to [www.swp.org.uk](http://www.swp.org.uk) or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

## { SOCIALIST WORKER } PUBLIC MEETINGS

## BIRMINGHAM

## Marxism and Women's Liberation

Wed 6 Apr, 7pm, Birmingham LGBT Centre, 38/40 Holloway Circus, B1 1EQ

## ESSEX

## Fortress Europe—refugees, racism and the state

Thu 7 Apr, 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House, Rainsford Rd, CM1 2QL

## MANCHESTER

## The EU—a left case for exit

Thu 14 Apr, 7pm, Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount St, M2 5NS

## { SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

## ABERDEEN

## Ireland's election—a political revolution?

Thu 7 Apr, 6pm, The Snug, Ma Cameron's, 6-8 Little Belmont St, AB10 1JG

## BARNESLEY

## Fighting for the NHS—how to beat privatisation

Thu 14 Apr, 6.30pm, YMCA, Blucher St, S70 1AP

## BOLTON

## Are we heading for another economic slump?

Thu 7 Apr, 6.30pm, Bolton Socialist Club, 16 Wood St (off Bradshawgate), BL1 1DY

## BRADFORD

## The internationalist case for leaving the European Union

Wed 6 Apr, 7pm, Glyde House, Little Horton Lane (opposite the ice rink), BD5 0BQ

## BRIGHTON

## The internationalist case for leaving the European Union

Wed 6 Apr, 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House, Ship St, BN1 1AF

## BRISTOL

## Immigration and wages—busting the racist myth

Wed 6 Apr, 7.30pm, YHA, 14 Narrow Quay, BS1 4QA

## BURNLEY

## Trotsky and the politics of the united front

Wed 6 Apr, 7.30pm, Red Triangle Cafe, 160 St James's St, BB11 1NR

## CARDIFF

## Tories divided—how can we finish them off?

Wed 6 Apr, 7.30pm, Cathays Community Centre, Cathays Terrace, CF24 4HX

## CHESTERFIELD

## The crisis in education

Thu 7 Apr, 7.30pm, Chesterfield Library, New Beetwell St, S40 1QN

## COVENTRY

## Are we too late to stop climate change?

Wed 6 Apr, 7.30pm, West Indian Centre, 159 Spon St, CV1 3BB

## DERBY

## Marxism and religion

Thu 7 Apr, 7pm, West End Community Centre, Mackworth Rd (next to Britannia Mill), DE22 3BL

## DONCASTER

## Are we heading for another economic slump?

Wed 6 Apr, 7.30pm, Women's Centre, 21 Cleveland St, DN1 3EH

## DUDLEY

## Trotsky and the united front

Wed 6 Apr, 8pm, The What Centre, 23 Coventry St, DY8 1EP

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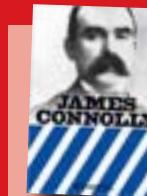
Thu 14 Apr, 7pm, Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount St, M2 5NS

## { SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

## A barricade on a Dublin street

## 1916—James Connolly and Ireland's Easter Rising



£3

## A Rebel's Guide to James Connolly by Sean Mitchell

Available at Bookmarks the Socialist book shop. [bookmarksbookshop.co.uk](http://bookmarksbookshop.co.uk)

## OXFORD

## Is Bernie Sanders the US's Jeremy Corbyn?

Wed 6 Apr, 7.30pm, Restore, Manzil Way, OX4 1YH

## PLYMOUTH

## Are we heading for another economic slump?

Thu 14 Apr, 7pm, Quaker House, 74 Mutley Plain, PL4 6LF

## POOLE

## Turkey and the Kurds

Mon 11 Apr, 7.30pm, Globe Cafe, 88 High St, BH15 1DB

## PORTSMOUTH

## What would democracy look like in a socialist society?

Wed 6 Apr, 7.30pm, Somerstown Central, Rivers St, PO5 4EY

## ROTHERHAM

## Fortress Europe—refugees, racism and the state

Wed 20 Apr, 7pm, Talbot Lane Methodist Church Centre, Moorgate St, S60 2EY

## SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE

## The crisis in education

Thu 7 Apr, 7pm, Central United Reformed Church, 60 Norfolk St, S1 2JB

## SOUTHAMPTON

## Are we heading for another economic slump?

Wed 6 Apr, 7.30pm, Central Baptist Church Hall, Devonshire Rd, SO15 2GY

## ST ALBANS

## The EU—a left case for exit

Wed 20 Apr, 7.30pm, Trinity Church Hall (upstairs), 1 Beaconsfield Rd, AL1 3RD

## SWANSEA

## The EU—a left case for exit

Thu 7 Apr, 7.30pm, Brynmill Community Centre, St Albans Rd, SA2 0BP

## TELFORD

## The EU—a left case for exit

Thu 28 Apr, 7.30pm, Carriages, The Parade, Wellington, TF1 1PY

## WOLVERHAMPTON

## AND WALSALL

## The politics of the united front

Wed 6 Apr, 7.30pm, Wild Bytes Cafe, Darlington St, Wolverhampton WV1 4HW

## { MOVEMENT EVENTS }

## NATIONAL

## March for Health, Homes, Jobs and Education

Sat 16 Apr, 1pm, Gower St, London NW1

## MARXISM FESTIVAL 2016

## The Paris Commune

Thu 30 Jun-Mon 4 July Central London

A five day political festival hosted by the Socialist Workers Party

## MANCHESTER: CHORLTON

## The fight for the NHS

Wed 6 Apr, 7pm, Chorlton Central Church (Meeting Room), Barlow Moor Rd, M21 8BF

## MANCHESTER: CITY CENTRE

## The Paris Commune

Thu 7 Apr, 7pm, Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount St, M2 5NS

## MANCHESTER: LONGSIGHT

## AND LEVENSHULME

## Pride and politics—Marxism and oppression

Thu 7 Apr, 7.30pm, Inspire, 747 Stockport Rd, M19 3AR

## MEDWAY

## Is Bernie Sanders the US's Jeremy Corbyn?

Thu 7 Apr, 7.30pm, Nucleus Arts Centre (Conference Room), 272 High St, ME4 4BP

## NEWCASTLE

## How can Palestine be free?

Thu 7 Apr, 7pm, Broadacres House, Market St, NE1 6HQ

## NORTHAMPTON

## The internationalist case for leaving the European Union

Wed 13 Apr, 7.30pm, The Lab, 95-97 Charles St, NN1 3BG

## NORWICH

## The Spanish Civil War—1936

Thu 7 Apr, 7.30pm, Vauxhall Centre, Johnson Place, NR2 2SA

## CONTACT THE SWP

Phone 020 7840 5600

Email [enquiries@swp.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@swp.org.uk)

Post PO Box 71327, London SE11 9BW

# ‘You’re never going to stop people writing on the walls’

Graffiti artist turned journalist **Marcus Barnes** told Alistair Farrow why he’s relaunched magazine Keep the Faith—and why public space needs defending

**COPS PROSECUTED** graffiti artist Marcus Barnes, now editor of Keep the Faith magazine, in 2011.

He was the first person in Britain charged with encouragement to commission criminal damage. But after a three-year legal ordeal the charge didn’t stick. A year after the trial’s end he is relaunching the magazine.

Marcus first launched the magazine in 2010. He told Socialist Worker, “A dark cloud was spreading over the graffiti community—people had died while out painting, people had been sent to prison.

“That’s where the idea for the magazine came from, to encourage people to keep the faith in dark times.”

Graffiti writers go to great lengths to paint trains, risking death and arrest. They have been criminalised even as trendy “street art” has won increasing acceptance in the mainstream.

The repression comes at a cost. In 2009, Tom Collister, also known as Skeam, killed himself in his prison cell. He had been given a 30-month sentence for graffiti.

For Marcus this clampdown is political. “The decision has to come from somewhere and it comes from the top,” he said.

“The state uses anti-terror laws brought in after the 7/7 London bombings against graffiti artists. I know people who have been put under surveillance, who have had conditions put on their bails.”

## Trains

His charge over the magazine came alongside counts of criminal damage. He pled guilty to the criminal damage, receiving community service and a suspended sentence.

“Because of my history of illegal graffiti they saw me as a criminal and nothing else,” said Marcus. This made Keep the Faith a target.

“The magazine isn’t full of pictures of street art but of illegal graffiti on trains,” he said.

“We’re also a smaller, independent publisher and don’t have the financial clout to hire an expensive legal team.”

Prosecutors argued that celebrating illegal graffiti counted as “encouragement”.

As well as dispelling this, the defence had to make a case for freedom of expression.

They pointed to how big firms hire street artists to make their products look edgy without risk of persecution.



EXTRACTS FROM Marcus’ magazine Keep the Faith, which celebrates illegal graffiti on trains

Modern graffiti began alongside hip hop culture in working class New York, during a period of social upheaval. It was part of a battle over who controls public space that is still raging today.

“People think that because we pay taxes we have control of stuff,” said Marcus. “But not many of us

own anything. Most of the buildings we see on high streets are privately owned. It seems like there is a greater and aggressive push to claim ownership of public space.”

Rail privatisation adds to the criminalisation of graffiti on trains. Marcus explained, “Rail companies have stock leased to them by foreign companies, often owned by states. They are fined if there is graffiti on trains or if trains are taken out of service.

“They should talk to graffiti artists to come up with progressive solutions rather than spending hundreds of thousands on cleaning it.”

have a say in how public space is used.”

But Marcus is defiant—and says repression won’t work. “You’re never going to stop people writing their names on walls,” he argued. “So they should stop wasting money in times of austerity.”

“Private companies are in charge of the public domain and we don’t



Marcus Barnes

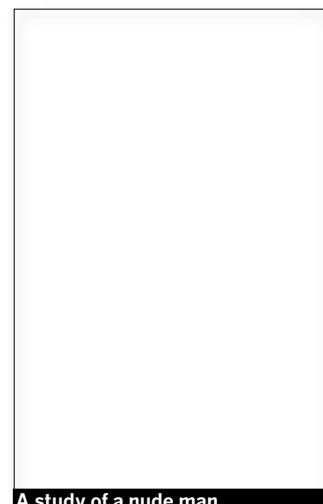
## EXHIBITION

### LEONARDO DA VINCI: TEN DRAWINGS FROM THE ROYAL COLLECTION

Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8AG. Until 24 April [royalcollection.org.uk](http://royalcollection.org.uk)

TEN OF Leonardo da Vinci’s finest drawings are touring four museums across Britain and Ireland this year. They are currently in Newcastle until April.

The works have been selected from the Royal Collections to show the



A study of a nude man

scope of Da Vinci’s interests.

Many will know Da Vinci for famous paintings, such as the Mona Lisa.

But his interests were far more wide-ranging, including anatomy (see above).

Through these drawings, Da Vinci recorded the world around him.

He thought that they could capture the world far more accurately than the written word.

## TOP 5 BOOKS

Bestsellers at Bookmarks, the socialist Bookshop

1 **A Rebel’s Guide to James Connolly**  
Seán Mitchell

2 **Raising Expectations (and Raising Hell): My Decade Fighting for the Labor Movement**  
Jane McAlevey

3 **1916—Ireland’s Revolutionary Tradition**  
Kieran Allen

4 **The EU—a left case for exit**  
Joseph Choonara

5 **Marxism and Women’s Liberation**  
Judith Orr

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Why not visit the shop at 1 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QE

Buy the magazine online at [ktfmagazine.bigcartel.com](http://ktfmagazine.bigcartel.com)

**N EGYPT** something very important has been changing in the last few months. And the pace of change is accelerating.

Egypt has a terrible regime run by Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. There are hundreds of disappearances, tens of thousands of political prisoners, death sentences and torture. But the regime faces big problems.

First, there is an unprecedented economic crisis.

Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states paid over £21 billion to support the el-Sisi regime.

But now they're in crisis because of a drop in oil prices and are unable to continue paying the amount of money they were paying before.

Egypt's dictator el-Sisi is struggling even to pay the interest on loans given to him by these states.

Secondly, the policies of the regime have been extremely neoliberal.

The government has spent a lot of money trying to re-stimulate the economy. But it is doing that with a parallel system of austerity, with severe cuts to subsidies and public spending. It is also attempting to cut down public sector employment.

In Egypt we have over six million civil service workers and public sector employees. Sisi has openly said we only need one million of those, basically threatening to fire five million workers.

This whole strategy is not working anymore. The central bank is losing control of the Egyptian pound and they're running out of their reserves of foreign currency. At the time of the 2011 revolution Egypt had £25 billion in foreign reserves. Now it's less than £10 billion.

Egypt is the biggest importer of wheat in the world. They need money to pay for that wheat on a monthly basis.

#### Shortages

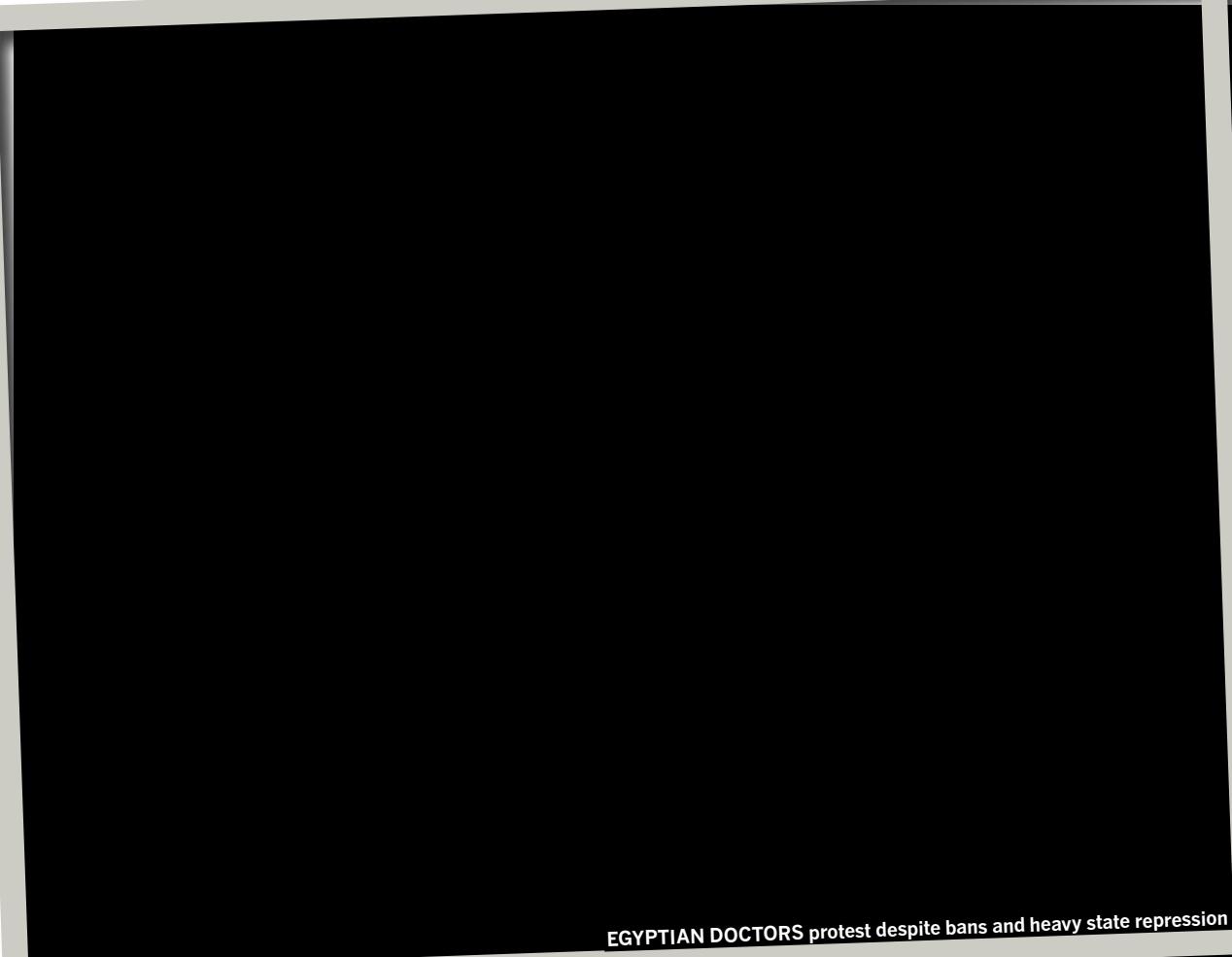
Reserves are only enough for three months of importing essential goods, including cooking oil and wheat. There are already severe shortages of several essential goods.

Because of the economic crisis there are also serious splits between the Sisi regime and the business class that supports him financially inside Egypt.

Billionaire families that grew rich during the era of ousted dictator Mubarak were central in financing the military coup of 2013 and supported the government until now.

They now have serious trouble in getting foreign currencies to buy things for their factories—necessary raw materials and so on—and are starting to show opposition to the regime.

One of the other effects of the 2011 revolution was the creation of serious cracks in the state. Police forces were



EGYPTIAN DOCTORS protest despite bans and heavy state repression

# PRESSURE ON EGYPT'S DICTATOR

Egypt is changing and as occupations, protests and strikes grow so does confidence—the left must rise to the challenge says Revolutionary Socialist Sameh Naguib



practically destroyed for quite a while. The balance between the different state institutions was called into question.

In Egypt there are several important security apparatuses. There is state security, which is the interior ministry-police force. There is military intelligence. And there is general intelligence, which is more connected to the president.

Each of these institutions follows people around, torture to gain information and have their

**With economic crisis, workers' demands are becoming louder**

parliamentary elections.

So the different state security forces each have their people in parliament, meaning the parliament represents the different security forces of the regime not the people.

There are cracks in that system and people see that those at the top are not as solid as they were before.

In the summer of 2015 there were serious mass demonstrations by civil service workers on the streets for some time.

This is despite laws against demonstrations. You can get up to five years in prison for going on demonstrations. But they blocked a main road in Cairo a few hundred metres from Tahrir Square.

Because of police brutality in one of the hospitals there was a huge meeting of the doctors' union.

Some 10,000 doctors from all over the country blocked a main street 500 metres from Tahrir Square.

Over 10,000 postgraduates promised jobs by the government that were never given to them protested outside the higher education ministry. Again, this was on the street leading to Tahrir Square.

The ultras—working class football fans who were central to the Egyptian revolution—have had two major demonstrations for the first time since 2013.

Over 10,000 Al-Ahly club supporters went into Al-Ahly stadium by force and held a huge rally demanding justice for those killed by police in 2011. And over 15,000 Zamalek fans gathered in a major park just over a mile from Tahrir Square.

What attitude do you take towards this hunger strike? How do you build opposition to this military dictatorship?

The problem is that parts of the left are unable to take a consistent position towards people in jail, towards the torture and terrible conditions in which Muslim Brotherhood are being kept.

The secular opposition betrayed the revolution on the basis that the Muslim Brotherhood and Islamism is worse than anything.

The revolution in 2011 was about people occupying public space. The whole counter-revolution was about preventing people doing that.

Now people are occupying public space again. It's started to create a kind of momentum that we've seen before.

We saw that kind of momentum in 2010 and in the months leading to the revolution. This is extremely significant. The possibility for change is enormous.

People are starting to move. There are strikes by textile workers, bus workers and public sector workers all over the country. Workplaces have been occupied by thousands. With the economic crisis and inflation workers' demands are becoming louder.

Every time people occupy a space or have a strike their confidence increases. We're not starting from zero again. We're

starting with a working class that has the experience of 2011. It's starting to use that experience to move again.

The question is, how do you organise politically to make use of this new momentum? This is a vital question, particularly for the left and everybody who was part of the revolution.

There is a big space for the left in Egypt. This is good and bad. Good in the sense that there is space to build a left but bad because organisationally that's a very difficult task.

There is a growing realisation that the regime uses the same tactics against the strikes as they did against the Muslim Brotherhood and the political movement.

Because the state is so violent in its approach the connection with police brutality is not difficult to make.

#### Audience

There is an audience for left ideas. Ideas about freedom and social justice are very central now in Egypt. People have become very tired—they don't believe the regime any more.

As things change people start organising—but this time with the experience of 2011 behind them.

It's crucial to build links between different groups such as the ultras, the doctors, textile workers, public sector workers. We've done this before in Tahrir Square.

There's a question of how to approach the Muslim Brotherhood, which has members and leading activists in prison on hunger strike.

What attitude do you take towards this hunger strike? How do you build opposition to this military dictatorship?

The problem is that parts of the left are unable to take a consistent position towards people in jail, towards the torture and terrible conditions in which Muslim Brotherhood are being kept.

We need united opposition to the military dictatorship, including the left and the Islamists and all those elements that were essential parts of the revolution.

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military regime.

For us, the Revolutionary Socialists, we support the hunger strikers 100 percent. We are part of a campaign to free all political prisoners in Egypt, including the Muslim Brotherhood.

We need united opposition to the military dictatorship, including the left and the Islamists and all those elements that were essential parts of the revolution.

If we get this right, we have the opportunity to build a secular alternative. Only through this will we be able to make use of this new momentum and start preparing for the next Egyptian revolution.

This article is an edited version of Sameh's speech to the Middle East and North Africa solidarity network dayschool last month

#### READ MORE

- **Bread, Freedom, Social Justice: Workers and the Egyptian Revolution** by Anne Alexander and Mostafa Bassiouny, £16.99
- **The Egyptian Revolution** by Sameh Naguib, £3
- **Egypt: 18 days that shook the world** by Judith Orr, bit.ly1T7SJLi

Available at Bookmarks, the socialist bookshop. Phone 020 7637 1848 or go to [bookmarksbookshop.co.uk](http://bookmarksbookshop.co.uk)



As the right moves to overturn left governments in South America, important political arguments have been raised, argues Dave Sewell

BRAZIL'S JUDICIARY is hounding former left wing president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva over corruption—and barred him from rejoining the government to escape trial. His successor Dilma Rousseff could face impeachment.

Up to three million people joined protests against Brazil's government. Workers bear the brunt of its economic crisis, but it's not their unions leading the resistance. It's the right and the middle class.

Brazil represents the moderate end of South America's "pink tide". So did the Argentinian centre left that lost office in last November's election.

The more radical end isn't doing much better. Bolivian president Evo Morales just lost an important referendum. In Venezuela, a right-wing majority in parliament is out to get Hugo Chavez's successor Nicolas Maduro.

In all these countries the right is a serious threat. These are the bosses who bled workers and peasants dry, the dictators' henchmen who called in death squads.

Now oil prices have collapsed and Chinese growth is slowing down. Brazil is deep in recession. Argentina and Venezuela face spiralling inflation. These economic crises expose a political weakness. The mass movements that once resisted the right have receded and today's left can no longer call on them for help.

In 2002 and 2003 Chavez only survived a coup and a bosses' strike through the

mobilisation of workers and the poor. But in 2008 he set up the mass, top-down United Socialist Party of Venezuela to bring the movement under his control.

Its bureaucracy sought to build alliances in the ruling class and kept a lid on independent initiatives by the working class.

Morales turned on the poor and indigenous supporters who had defended him to repress protests to defend the rainforest from a new road.

**Pressure**  
Brazil has seen some impressive strikes and protests against Rousseff and her Workers' Party. But workers there face pressure to back it to keep out the right. Socialists are often told to mute their criticisms of progressive politicians. Campaigners against cuts implemented by Labour councils are running into this today.

They may not be perfect, goes the argument, but they're better than the right.

We do need to fight the right, and there will need to be alliances in order to do so. But the problem is that the manoeuvres of the "left" governments won't stop the right coming back to wipe out whatever gains have been made.

Government supporters and trade unionists in Brazil have held their own rallies against any attempt at a "coup". But to win means giving workers more to fight than popping up a party that can no longer deliver.

## ANALYSIS BRAZIL

# Workers Party crisis shows limit of left's strategy

**The right wing has returned as a very serious threat in South America**

# Sanders' wins keep him in US race

by CHARLIE KIMBER

**BERNIE SANDERS**, who calls himself a socialist, recorded three massive wins in contests last Saturday to choose the Democratic Party candidate for US president.

In Washington state, where he won every one of the 39 counties, he gained 73 percent of the vote. He did even better in Alaska, winning 82 percent of the vote, and in Hawaii he had 70 percent.

Sanders has now defeated establishment candidate Hillary Clinton in five of the last six contests.

In several of these states he has secured bigger margins of victory than Barack Obama managed against Clinton in 2008.

Washington is one of the states which operates caucuses.

Instead of casting a ballot in secret, voters turn up and argue with one another over who to support before a vote is taken.

At the Redmond Town

## BACK STORY

How are US presidents elected?

- The US presidential election takes place on 8 November.
- The Republicans and the Democrats choose their candidates through primaries and caucuses.
- Primaries are ballots open to all of the party's supporters. Caucuses are more like party meetings.
- They both elect delegates to party conventions, who vote on the candidate. But there are also unelected delegates called "super delegates".

Centre, organisers of the 48th Legislative District Democrats had expected 200 people to caucus.

Then 400 preregistered. And on Saturday morning 700 people showed up.

Anna Powson was one of those there. She told Socialist Worker, "There was a really



THE FAMILY of Tony Robinson joined a Sanders rally last Saturday. Tony Robinson was shot dead by a police officer in Wisconsin a year ago

PICTURE: © JOSEPH BRUSKY

strong debate. The Clinton supporters said that we had to elect a woman.

"I can really relate to that, especially when you see how the Republican candidates Donald Trump and Ted Cruz really hate women's rights.

"But I don't want a woman who is a front for the bankers

and Wall Street and the politicians who took us to war in Iraq.

"Ok, she has experience, but it's the wrong sort of experience.

"I like Bernie because he's a new voice, and cares about issues like climate change."

After a lengthy debate the

caucus divided three to one in favour of Sanders.

Sanders says he can now see a "path towards victory", but he faces huge obstacles.

After last Saturday's results Clinton has 1,243 elected delegates and Sanders has 975.

The gap has narrowed, but is still substantial.

In any case, the unelected "superdelegates"—party officials and representatives—are presently pledged 469 to 23 for Clinton.

This gives Clinton a total of 1,712 delegates compared to 1,004 for Sanders (2,283 delegates are needed to win the nomination).

Sanders is pressing superdelegates from states that have overwhelmingly backed him to listen to voters and shift from Clinton.

But there's little sign of that happening.

The next election is in the state of Wisconsin on 5 April where polls suggest it will be a close race.

Sanders will not fail due to lack of cash. He amazed commentators in January by out-raising Clinton by £15 million to her £10 million.

Clinton did twice as well the next month, raising £20 million, only to find that Sanders had brought in an astonishing £29 million.

The real difference is that Sanders has raised nearly all the cash from millions of small donations, not the rich.

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# Rotherham's corrupt cops wouldn't tackle child abuse

**Jayne Senior** spoke to Sadie Robinson about her new book which exposes how the authorities in Rotherham held back the truth of an abuse scandal

**A CORRUPT** police officer was among those refusing to tackle child abuse in Rotherham, a new book has revealed.

Jayne Senior worked for Risky Business, a service that supported children at risk of abuse in the South Yorkshire town. Her book, *Broken and Betrayed*, describes years of police failings—and suggests a cover up of the abuse (see below).

Jayne told Socialist Worker that she was “not at all” surprised by evidence of police corruption that emerged in a recent abuse trial.

“I don’t think anybody in the police or the council would have been shocked,” she added.

The book details how Risky Business gave South Yorkshire Police (SYP) a mountain of evidence over many years. But “we were constantly told by senior officers that it was ‘hearsay’,” she said.

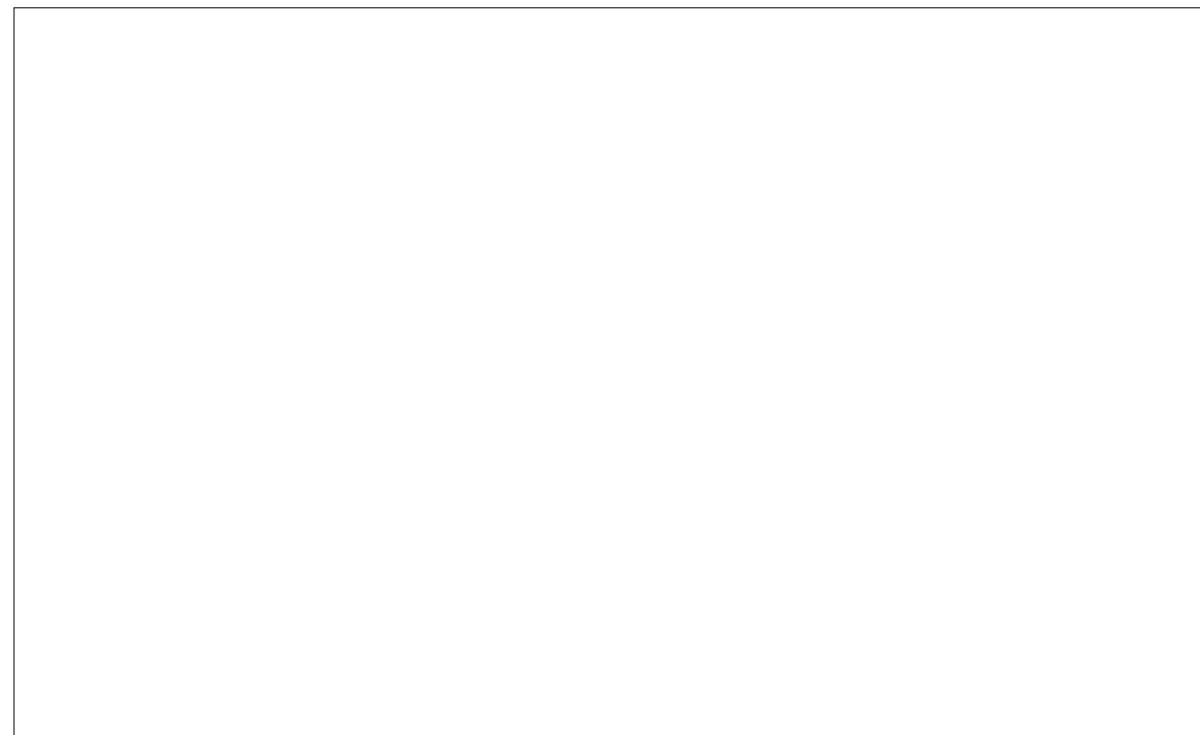
## System

She wrote, “I was angry not only at the abusers, but the system. The system was stacked against victims.”

One victim, Debbie, told her about a “corrupt police officer” in the area. Jayne wrote, “It seemed he was raiding houses of known heroin dealers and confiscating their supplies but only handing part of this in.”

“The rest he would give to Debbie. She could have a portion of it for personal use as long as she sold the remainder and handed him the profits.”

Another victim, Jessica, was being abused by a man ten years older than her. “She claimed that on several occasions officers would warn him to lie low because



## POLICE STAND accused of at best ignoring abuse allegations

he was ‘being looked at’.”

Jayne wrote that there is a “cultural” problem with the way some men view girls. But she also said the problems go much deeper.

“We still seem to treat women of all backgrounds as second-class citizens and sexual objects,” she wrote.

“There seemed to be an attitude, particularly among some police officers, that the girls



Jayne Senior

were ‘little slags’ not to be trusted. I believe there was a view that the abuse was somehow ‘consensual’.”

Jayne added, “I don’t think any of what has happened in Rotherham is connected with religion. Neither do I think it’s a racial issue.”

She told Socialist Worker that

white girls weren’t the only victims—boys and Asian girls suffered abuse too.

Jayne wrote that children are continuing to suffer abuse in Rotherham “with very little being done to prevent it”.

And police in Rotherham “have some way to go before they treat the victims of CSE with the understanding and respect they deserve”.

Jayne Senior’s book, *Broken and Betrayed*, is published by Pan Macmillan priced £7.99

## ‘Hostility and intimidation’

**ADELE WEIR**, now Gladman, carried out research into abuse in Rotherham for the Home Office in the early 2000s.

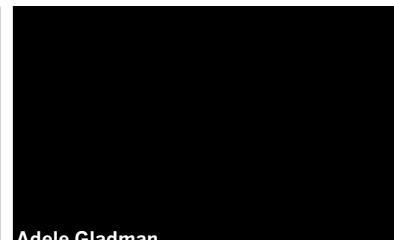
Jayne’s book describes a meeting with then Rotherham police commander Christine Burbeary to discuss the research.

“She accused Adele of making up stories and deliberately lying,” wrote Jayne. “Intimidating doesn’t even begin to describe Christine Burbeary’s behaviour.”

Soon afterwards Risky Business was robbed. Files, case studies and other information was taken.

There were no broken locks or windows.

A Risky Business computer had also been “accessed”. Adele experienced “intense personal hostility and intimidation” from the



council and South Yorkshire Police.

Jayne described a police officer stopping Adele in her car and told her “in no uncertain terms that ‘people’ knew where she lived”.

She described bumping into a police officer she knew when leaving work. “He said, ‘You really need to make sure your tyres are in good nick, and your vehicle is insured. Just thought I’d let you know that.’”

## Racists seize on the cases

**RACIST AND** fascist groups seized on the abuse scandal in Rotherham to paint abuse as a problem caused by Asian men. The perpetrators in recent high-profile court cases have been mainly Asian men—although white women were convicted of offences too.

The abuse in Rotherham is horrific. But it would be wrong to conclude that most people who suffer abuse are abused by Asian men. Report after report has shown that most abuse takes place within the family.

One, from the University

Campus Suffolk and the Survivors in Transition charity, was published last November. It found that 70 percent of survivors were abused within their family or extended family.

Last week the charity Barnados said stereotypes about

abuse could put victims at risk. It warned that children targeted by older women may not be identified as victims.

The report said victims are “not solely white British” and that boys who suffer CSE are a “hidden group”.

## ‘Serious failures’ by police

**A REVIEW** of South Yorkshire Police’s handling of child sexual exploitation (CSE) between 1997 and this year was published by Professor John Drew last week.

Drew found that the police response to CSE was “inadequate, especially in Rotherham”.

There were “serious failings” of policing in Rotherham in the early 2000s and “significant failures after 2007”.

Reports on CSE had been considered “at chief superintendent and superintendent level” and “in 2011 at assistant chief constable level”.

SYP records the ethnicity of suspects of identified CSE between January 2014 and January this year. Some 65 percent were “White, North European”, 2.4 percent were “White, South European” and 19 percent were “Asian”.

## Evidence

The report noted suggestions that SYP did not tackle Asian abusers for fear of being accused of racism. Drew wrote, “I have received little evidence on this point.”

Drew identified key reasons for the lack of action on CSE including too narrow a definition of it, a top down culture, and attitudes to young people.

Drew “heard examples of ‘canteen humour’ applied to children who were regularly missing from home”. One chief inspector said police in Rotherham during the 2000s saw CSE as “a burden”. Drew noted “speculation” about whether “improper and corrupt relationships between police officers and perpetrators” stopped officers tackling abuse.

The report said SYP’s response to safeguarding children from CSE was now “adequate”. It added that improvements still need to be made.

Chief Constable David Crompton announced his retirement last week

## IN BRIEF

**Lights, camera—and strike action**

CINEMA WORKERS at The Rio in Dalston, east London, are to ballot for industrial action in a fight over pay.

The Bectu union is demanding a pay rise for all.

Workers have not had a pay rise since 2012, with the lowest paid on £6.91 an hour.

**Workers send Royal Mail clear message**

POSTAL WORKERS in the CWU union have launched a campaign for a shorter working week.

The CWU says a 35-hour working week with no loss in pay will be a "priority aim" in upcoming negotiations with Royal Mail bosses.

It comes after the union held a postal policy forum in London last week.

Delegates to the forum also voted to ballot for industrial action if Royal Mail closes their current pension scheme.

**Fast Food Rights plans day of protest**

FAST FOOD Rights campaigners were set to protest outside Downing Street on Friday of this week.

They are demanding a £10 an hour minimum wage.

The protest will come ahead of a global day of action for fast food workers demanding higher pay, union rights and better conditions at work.

**Boaters in London won't tow the line**

UP TO 70 boaters joined a towpath gathering in Tottenham, north London, on Sunday of last week.

Boaters pay substantial license fees to the Canal and River Trust (CRT) for access to water taps and rubbish and toilet facilities.

But the CRT is now restricting access to them.

**Bid to stop Land Registry sell-off**

THE PCS union has said it will launch a "major campaign" against Tory plans to sell off the Land Registry.

The Tories announced the privatisation on Thursday of last week.

Strikes by PCS members in 2014 thwarted a previous attempt.

**Threat of strike crucifies bosses**

A PLANNED 24-hour strike by Allied Bakery workers in Cardiff was called off last week after their Bfawu union reached an agreement with bosses.

They had planned to walk out over changes to holiday entitlements and shift patterns.

Bfawu said the chosen strike date was one of the company's busiest times for hot cross bun production.

## SOLIDARITY

**Vigil for Asad Shah**

UP TO 1,000 people joined a vigil at less than 24 hours' notice last Friday following the horrific murder of Glasgow shopkeeper Asad Shah.

The event was called under the slogan "This is not who we are".

Police Scotland said Asad's murder was "religiously prejudiced". A man has been arrested and was set to appear in court on Tuesday of this week. An online crowdfunder had raised over £87,000 for Asad's family by the time Socialist Worker went to press.

## ANTI-FASCISM

**Bad day for Nazis in Wales and Yorkshire**

by MARTIN CHAPMAN and JEFF HURFORD

OVER 500 people protested against the Nazi National Front (NF) in Swansea last Saturday.

The NF only mustered 25 knuckle-draggers for 40 minutes to their "White Pride" protest.

Chants of "Nazi scum—off our streets" and "Refugees welcome here" summed up the anti-fascist demonstrators' feelings.

People were angered that the NF had chosen to hold their event in Swansea for the fourth year in a row.

Anti-fascists held a two-week festival celebrating Swansea's multiculturalism in the run-up to last Saturday.

It included a Stand Up to Racism rally, two Love Music Hate Racism gigs, a film show, poetry readings and lots of leafleting and similar events.

**Organisation**

People didn't just come from Swansea. There was a coach load from Cardiff and individuals came from all over south and west Wales.

A broad range of political and community organisations and unions, including the Unison union, were involved in making the day a success.

And it was particularly welcome to see a stall from Swansea Mosque.

Speakers included two Labour MPs, Plaid Cymru and Green Party representatives.

A striking PCS union member from the National Museum of Wales (see page 19) also spoke.

■ ANTI-FASCISTS faced down racist English Defence League (EDL) supporters in



HUNDREDS RALLY for murdered Glasgow shopkeeper Asad Shah

PICTURE: FRANK DOLEMAN

**Staff reject pay insult**

TRADE UNIONS representing lecturers and support staff in higher education have rejected an initial pay offer from bosses.

The UCU, EIS, Unison, Unite and GMB unions have urged bosses to improve their initial 1 percent pay offer.

The trade unions said that it did not address areas such as the living wage.

Unions are set to meet again with the bosses' UCEA group on 28 April.

A united strike could force a pay rise from the bosses.

## TUBE WORKERS



United action can push back the bosses

**Tube drivers' strike shuts down the Piccadilly line**

A 24-HOUR strike by Tube drivers through Wednesday and Thursday of last week shut London Underground's Piccadilly line.

Members of the RMT and Aslef unions took part in the walkout.

The RMT said the "wholesale abuse of procedures and agreements by management" was

behind the dispute.

It added that management were also "continuing to drag their heels over addressing fundamental safety issues which leave staff in a vulnerable and exposed position".

Further 24-hour strikes are set to take place from 12 noon on 19 and 21 April.

**Raymie Kiernan**



Taking on the EDL's racism in Rotherham

Rotherham last Saturday.

Around 70 people from across South Yorkshire joined Rotherham Unite Against Fascism's (UAF) demonstration.

This matched the EDL, which had to rely on supporters from across Britain.

It was the 15th Nazi incursion in two years as they try to whip up racism over the child sex abuse scandal that hit the town (see page 17).

**Attacks**

An increase in racist attacks has followed, including the murder of 81 year old Mushin Ahmed last August.

Phil Turner from Rotherham UAF said, "We saw the Nazis off yet again."

"The link to racist violence and fascists coming into Rotherham is clear."

"We believe there is a real danger to the safety of the local Asian population."

We say, 'No more racist murders, justice for child sex exploitation victims.'

"Enough is enough, Nazis out of Rotherham!"

Speakers at the rally included representatives from the Support the Rotherham 12 Defence Campaign, local Labour councillors and the Palestine Solidarity Campaign.

A number of union banners were displayed in support. Trade union speakers included members of Unison, the NUT, NUJ and Barnsley and Chesterfield trades councils.

■ ANTI-FASCISTS are planning to march against the Nazis in Dover on Saturday.

Kent Anti Racism Network has called the counter demo. Unite Against Fascism is backing it and is organising transport from London.

■ Go to the Facebook event **No to Nazis in Dover! Refugees Welcome, Nazis Out**

HOUSING campaigners are planning to demonstrate against homelessness on 15 April by holding sleepouts and protests across Britain.

Their action comes after the 5,000-strong march against the Tories' Housing and Planning Bill last month.

The bill would spell the end of council and social housing.

The actions are also part of building for the People's Assembly demonstration against austerity the following day.

In London, activists will

hold a protest outside Downing Street on Whitehall.

Elsewhere people will demonstrate on the steps of town halls and outside housing offices.

Activists are also planning a mass protest and lobby of MPs on 27 April.

**Alistair Farrow**

■ For details of protests taking place go to Facebook event pages **March with the Homeless London, Southwark: Kill the Housing Bill National Sleepout** and **defendcouncilhousing.org.uk**

**Housing activists step up campaign with sleepouts**

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

## WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE TEACHERS

# Strike on after deal proves to be hollow

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

TEACHERS IN West Dunbartonshire, near Glasgow, were set to walk out on Wednesday and Thursday this week. They are fighting against a restructuring of management positions in five secondary schools.

The fresh walkouts follow a two to one rejection of the Labour-run council's latest offer to end the dispute.

The dispute centres around planned cuts of over £600,000 that will see faculties introduced in schools and cuts to principal teacher posts.

West Dunbartonshire EIS teachers' union says the union was given verbal assurances by council management that indicated "a continuity of specialist principal teachers in subject departments".

A planned strike was suspended to ballot members on a new offer on this basis.

But West Dunbartonshire EIS said, "Many teachers were angry at this suspension because they did not



EIS MEMBERS on the picket lines

PICTURE: EIS

trust management to hold good on their promises.

"This turned out to be correct as management's 'final' offer not only omitted these assurances but replaced them with their original demands around faculties."

The union said this

"deception" has only fuelled anger among teachers.

It has also called a further two-day walkout for 26 and 27 April and warned bosses it will keep fighting.

EIS said, "If we get to May without a resolution and the

council seeks to impose its new structure, elected members need to understand that this campaign will continue through until the end of this session and on into the next school year."

● Send solidarity messages to [westdunbartonshire@eis.org.uk](mailto:westdunbartonshire@eis.org.uk)

## EU DEBATE

## The case for a EU left exit

AROUND 80 people joined a "left exit" meeting in central London on Wednesday of last week. It was organised to put forward the socialist case for leaving the European Union (EU) in the upcoming referendum on Britain's membership on 23 June.

The meeting brought together the Socialist Workers Party (SWP), the Indian Workers Association (Great Britain), Counterfire, the Communist Party and the RMT union, among others.

Joseph Choonara from the SWP opened the meeting by attacking the myths put forward by some defenders of the EU. He said, "The myth of free movement is unravelling in country after country. If you're Aylan Kurdi you have no freedom of movement. Joseph slammed the EU's 'illegal' and 'immoral' deal with Turkey."

The EU is one of the main drivers of neoliberalism and privatisation. As writer Tariq Ali said, "Forget removing privatisation if we're in the

EU—that's why the labour movement and the Labour party should be campaigning against the EU."

Lindsey German from Counterfire said, "Both wings of the argument contain racists. We have to deal with the substantive arguments."

If the vote was to leave the EU, it would create a further crisis for the Tories. There was some debate from the floor on whether or not to campaign with the right.

John Hamilton from Lewisham People Before Profit said, "I've been on the same stall with Ukip people."

But Harsev Baines from the Indian Workers Association (Great Britain) said, "I could not campaign alongside Ukip."

Joseph said, "I'm implacably against campaigning with Ukip. We need a united campaign to put forward a principled anti-racist, internationalist case."

Liz Payne, chair of the Communist Party and Eddie Dempsey from the RMT national executive also spoke.

## HEALTH WORKERS



PROTEST AT St George's hospital

PICTURE: PAUL HOLBOROW

## Alarm sounds at pay cuts

A WELL-ATTENDED protest was held at St George's hospital in Tooting, south London, last Thursday. It was organised by the GMB union.

Around 120 cleaning and catering staff protested against a cut in their hours and pay to the sound of a Second World War air raid

siren and a bass drum. Outsourced cleaning and patient catering services, already stretched to breaking point, are to be reduced further following a new deal between St George's hospital bosses and private contractor Mitie. **Paul Holborow**

## CIVIL SERVICE

## DWP workers should get pay rise without strings

by DAVE OWENS, PCS DWP group executive committee (pc)

PCS UNION members in the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) will soon be offered an above inflation pay offer for the first time in years.

However, despite union objections, DWP management has made clear that any pay rise will be conditional on the introduction of 8am to 8pm and weekend working.

This is linked to the impending roll-out of the government's flagship Universal Credit "reform".

The union is committed to consulting members when any offer is put and wishes to hold a ballot after PCS conference in May. But it is being pressured by the DWP to do this more quickly.

The union must hold its nerve, as any potential deal will need wide debate.

Many members believe that they deserve the pay increase without changes to terms and conditions. Concerns have also been raised by the South East and North West DWP regional committees.

As the North West committee pointed out, "Some members consider that the principle of a Monday to Friday week should not be conceded whatever the financial offer.

"Some members are unable to work different hours and weekends due to caring and other



PCS leader Mark Serwotka

commitments and some have organised their lives around the current working hours.

"Some reps also consider that these points should not be conceded at a time when the BMA have a high profile campaign which includes the issue of weekend working and imposed contractual changes for junior doctors."

## Members

Once the negotiations are completed members will have to consider very carefully if sufficient safeguards have been obtained.

If the offer is not acceptable, the union will have to be prepared to launch a serious campaign of industrial action to defend working conditions and to secure a decent pay rise for all.

Iain Duncan Smith's resignation presents a golden opportunity to fight over both pay for DWP staff and also against attacks on benefit claimants.

## MUSEUM WORKERS



Strikers at Cathays Park in Cardiff

## Defending the weekend

WORKERS AT National Museum Wales struck over Easter in a fight to defend their weekend pay.

The PCS union members walked out as part of rolling strikes at museum sites across Wales.

Museum bosses want to scrap premiums for weekend working, which can make up to 15 percent of some workers' take-home pay.

The PCS union says its lowest paid members could

lose as much as £3,000 a year.

Meanwhile PCS members at National Museums Scotland called off a strike set to take place last weekend. They had been preparing to walk out in the first of six weekend strikes.

The workers have been in dispute for three years after bosses withdrew weekend working allowances for new staff. The PCS agreed to suspend the action after bosses promised to bring a new offer to talks this week.

# UNIONS JOIN RESISTANCE

Workers in France are set to step up the fight against a new employment law with mass strikes following protests of young people, writes **Dave Sewell**

**MAJOR STRIKES** in France against a new employment law were planned for Thursday of this week as Socialist Worker went to press.

They were expected to be the biggest strikes in the country for years.

The action follows repeated demonstrations led by students and other young people—which have been met by violence from the police.

Young people took to the streets in defiance of police attacks last Friday.

It followed the third student strike last Thursday against a reform that would help bosses increase workers' hours, undercut their conditions or sack them.

In Paris a number of colleges called a strike on Friday after police were filmed beating up a 15-year-old black student.

Hundreds marched to the police station, where some smashed windows and threw heavy objects at its doors in revenge.

Gael Braibant, a student at the Sorbonne-Panthéon University, told Socialist Worker, "There's frequently police violence against student protests

"But this time has been particularly aggressive.

"Several people were hospitalised, and for the first time police are going inside the universities.

## Reaction

"There has been a reaction to that and it's connected to the state of emergency.

"There's a sense that after the attacks in Brussels the police will want to repress all mobilisation."

In Marseille one college was shut by staff so they could march with the students to the police station where a classmate was being held.

They all stayed outside



STUDENTS ON the streets of Paris last Thursday

PICTURE: FORCE OUVRIERE

until she was released.

In Marseille, St Charles University student Pierre Ciavarella told Socialist Worker about the previous day's march there.

"We started out with maybe 500 to 1,000 people, mostly students and a few

workers—the dockers and the teachers.

"But then as we marched it grew until it was really impressive.

"There was a good atmosphere, people were singing—and we blocked the motorway."

But police attacked them repeatedly over the course of the day.

"They surrounded us, and then they charged like animals," said Pierre.

At one point they chased them into the university itself, firing teargas and

The law was beaten last time

THE FRENCH Labour-type government wants to help bosses work their employees longer for less. But the majority of the population opposes it.

Without changing the substance of the reform, president Francois Hollande and his ministers have made enough concessions to win over right wing unions.

Bosses are incensed at any hint of retreat.

Powerful bosses' union Medef now says the

law is "unacceptable" and demands it is returned to its original form. It wants moves to cap tribunal payouts for unfair sackings to be reinstated.

Bosses hate French workers' hard-won rights and want to

rubber "flashball" grenades.

"A flashball is really frightening," said Pierre.

"One of them hit a member of staff who was trying to help us, another hit a young woman in the chest."

Young people are furious at the repression—and the smears that back it up.

"They're out to make us look like idiots who just want to run around and don't know why we're protesting," Pierre said.

## Conscious

"But someone who gets up at 6am every day to leaflet their college isn't doing it for a laugh—it's because they are conscious about what is happening."

Gael said, "The government is trying to isolate the youth, to cut us off from workers and to grind down the mobilisations."

But it won't be easy. "The last demonstration wasn't as big as the first," said Gael.

"There were examples of workers getting involved in a big way, particularly the dockers in Le Havre, but often it's only been the trade union activists.

"But for Thursday a huge number of workers are being called out.

"We've had well over a million people sign the petition against the law, and now we expect at least a million on the streets."

Pierre said, "For me, everything that's happened until now is just the beginning.

"So far it's mostly just been the youth—now it can be all the unions in a general strike.

"That's when it will really get started.

"We're going to scare the government, and then we're going to win."

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For updates go to  
[www.socialistworker.co.uk](http://www.socialistworker.co.uk)

Prime minister Manuel Valls

smash them. They say this is about boosting employment. It's really about profit.

Students point out that cutting working hours could allow them to be shared out and reduce both overwork and unemployment.

The government is trying to call the students' bluff. In particular prime minister Manuel Valls has been goading them.

At an agricultural fair a woman shouted, "We don't want the new law." Valls smirked, "Well yeah, but you're gonna have it."

Past experience casts doubt on his bravado. Next month is ten years since students forced a government to repeal its youth employment law—after parliament had passed it.